
SYMPOSIUM GOALS AND ACTION PLAN/NEXT STEPS

The goal of the symposium was to establish the national needs and requirements for weather information associated with decision-making actions involving surface transportation. This goal is consistent with a major theme of the historic Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater, in his summary message describing this important legislation, stated that *"...transportation is about more than concrete, asphalt, and steel: it is about people, and about providing them with the opportunity to lead safer, healthier, and more fulfilling lives."* Implicit in Secretary Slater's statement are the effects that weather can have on the safety, health and productivity of our Nation's citizens whether they are in the public or private/commercial sector. Action includes the expansion of coordinated support in response to national needs and requirements identified here.

- ◆ Highlight the environmental aspects of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21);
- ◆ Explore current weather issues impacting surface transportation;
- ◆ Explore the impacts of weather on surface transportation safety;
- ◆ Explore how weather information needs are being met today;
- ◆ Explore the value of forecasts and other weather information for decision support;
- ◆ Explore technology alternatives to enhance surface transportation decision support;
- ◆ Explore how research and technology can provide a national transportation weather information system;
- ◆ Explore ways to address weather information for decision support;
- ◆ Build a clear understanding of needs by establishing:
 - ❖ an open and honest dialog between the user community and the weather providers;
 - ❖ a data rich WIST questionnaire;
 - ❖ coherent symposium proceedings; and
 - ❖ a requirements document by Summer 2000;

-
- ◆ Strengthen or build new alliances and partnerships among all entities represented;
 - ❖ Complemented by FHWA short-term focus on winter road maintenance;
 - ◆ Continue exploration of relevant requirements using the Joint Action Group for Weather Information for Surface Transportation;
 - ◆ Move beyond the obvious and consider previously little explored areas, such as air quality, mirages, sun glint, space weather effects on navigation, communication, and pipeline electrical currents, etc;
 - ◆ Assess the recommendations from each panel and breakout session;
 - ◆ Publish proceedings in February 2000;
 - ◆ Distribute draft requirements document for review in May/June 2000;
 - ◆ Requirements document published during Summer 2000;
 - ◆ Forum in Fall 2000; and
 - ◆ Continue iterative development of requirements.